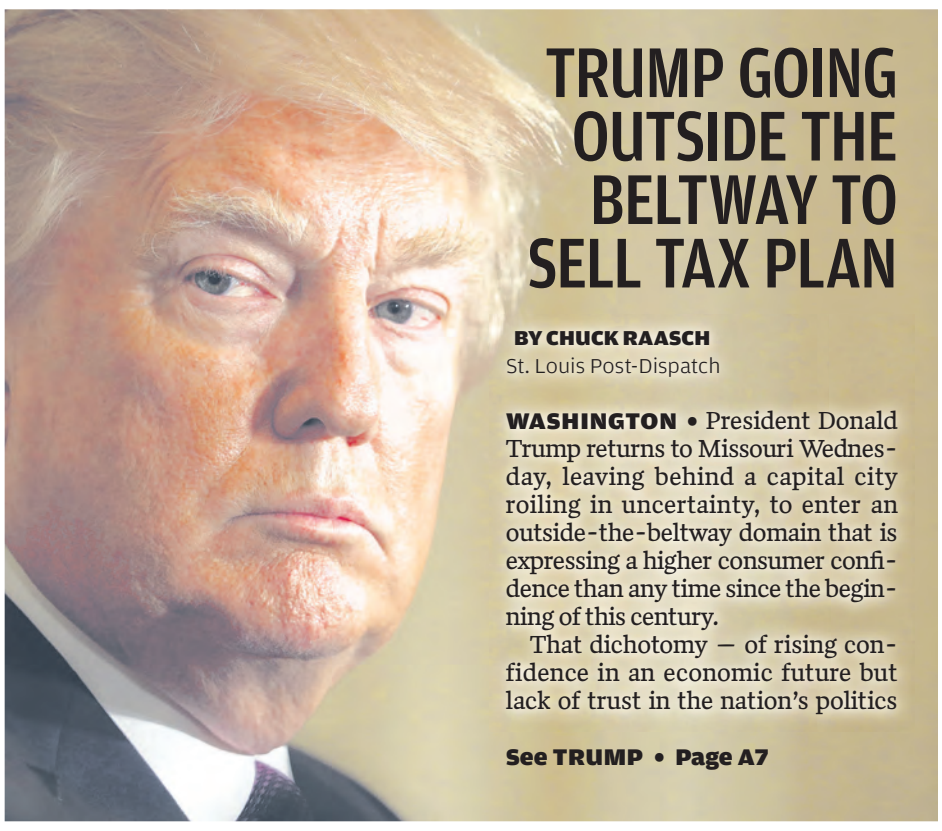
SERVING THE PUBLIC SINCE 1878 • WINNER OF 18 PULITZER PRIZES

stl TODAY

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

WEDNESDAY • 11.29.2017 • $1.50

GOP TAX BILL ADVANCES



TRUMP GOING OUTSIDE THE BELTWAY TO SELL TAX PLAN

BY CHUCK RAASCH
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

WASHINGTON • President Donald Trump returns to Missouri Wednesday, leaving behind a capital city roiling in uncertainty, to enter an outside-the-beltway domain that is expressing a higher consumer confidence than any time since the beginning of this century.

That dichotomy — of rising confidence in an economic future but lack of trust in the nation's politics

See TRUMP • Page A7

Two key holdouts fall in line, help push plan over the top

BY ALAN FRAM AND ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON • Republicans held together and pushed their signature tax overhaul a crucial step ahead Tuesday as wavering GOP senators showed a growing openness. But its fate remained uncertain, and a planned White House summit aimed at averting a government shutdown was derailed when President Donald Trump savaged top Democrats and declared on Twitter, "I don't see a deal!"

In a party-line 12-11 vote, the Senate Budget Committee managed to advance the tax measure to the full Senate as a pair of wavering Republicans — Wisconsin's Ron Johnson and Tennessee's Bob Corker — fell into line, at least for the moment. In more good news for the GOP, moder-

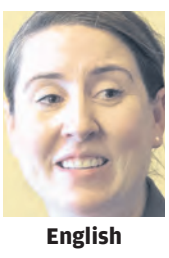
See TAX • Page A7

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin

Trump pick can lead consumer agency, judge says

OUT



English

IN

Mulvaney

BY SPENCER S. HSU AND THOMAS HEATH
Washington Post

WASHINGTON • A federal judge refused Tuesday to block President Donald Trump's choice of budget director Mick Mulvaney from serving as acting director of the prominent federal consumer watchdog agency, denying a request by Leandra English, the No. 2 official at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to serve in his stead.

In denying English's request for a temporary restraining order, U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly acknowledged that the case raised constitutional issues. Former CFPB litigation counsel Deepak Gupta, who represented English, said she would weigh her next step. "There needs to be an answer from the courts," he said after the ruling. "There needs to be a final answer."

The Trump administration applauded the decision and said it supported its contention that

See CONSUMER • Page A5

Anger, finger-pointing follow invasion of mice in public housing

CHRISTIAN GOODEN • cgooden@post-dispatch.com

Josh Copeland (right) and Jonny Millikan with Steri-Clean biohazard cleanup services clean heating units in Sam and Delois Blue's Clinton-Peabody apartment kitchen on Nov. 21 to remove residual contaminants after a heavy mouse infestation was found.

BY DOUG MOORE
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS • The city's health department created an aerial map this month highlighting each of the 31 buildings that make up the sprawling Clinton-Peabody public housing complex south of downtown.

Twenty-three of the rooftops on the map are colored yellow, meaning inspectors found inside each of those buildings the presence of mice, mainly through feces and urine, and, in some cases, carcasses.

The remaining eight buildings were labeled "no mice." For now.

"No mice identified does not necessarily indicate that there is not a mice issue in this building," an inspector wrote at the bottom of the map, dated Nov. 1. "It could indicate that more inspections need to be conducted."

Since that map was created, an exterminator hired by the St. Louis Housing Authority, which owns and operates Clinton-Peabody, has inspected 351 of the 358 residential units in those 31 buildings. The workers found that 149 of the apartments had "potential mice activity."

The infestation has set off a battle between city public health officials and the housing authority, an agency funded by the federal government. The health department has sued the housing authority in municipal court over alleged ordinance violations. And Clinton-Peabody residents are crowding monthly tenant meetings, including one held Monday to complain about the mice.

"They're everywhere," said resident Yolanda Norman. "We can't live like that."

But Cheryl Lovell, the housing authority's executive director, told the Post-Dispatch:

See MICE • Page A7

County Council rolls back pension for McCulloch

Retirement benefits for new county employees are cut

BY ASHLEY LISENBY
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

After months of discussions and public spats among members and the county executive, the St. Louis County Council voted Tuesday night to roll back the prosecuting attorney's pension benefits.

The council voted 6-1 on the measure that cuts retirement benefits for new county employees. Language from another measure, established to reduce Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch's benefits by a third, was included in the proposal. The change brings the prosecutor's benefits to the level they were a year ago.

The vote means McCulloch will still get a full state pension but only two-thirds of the county pension. Last November, the council had approved an ordinance that would have allowed the prosecutor to draw two full pensions.

Some of the council members, claiming they had been duped when they approved the earlier measure that allowed McCulloch to keep both pensions in full, at one point considered legislation

See PENSION • Page A5

Missourians can fly with current IDs for up to 1 more year

PAGE A3

North Korea's latest missile launch may put D.C. within range

PAGE A9

Carjacking suspect injured in shootout with St. Louis police

PAGE A4

Shake Shack to open Dec. 11 in Central West End • A3

Red Hot Riplets can enliven many meals • LET'S EAT

TODAY
58°/47°
MOSTLY CLOUDY

TOMORROW
59°/35°
DECREASING CLOUDS

WEATHER
B8

Unwelcome at home

POST-DISPATCH WEATHERBIRD ®

1 M 0 09189 21100 9 DAY
Vol. 139, No. 333 ©2017